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Words Are CATegorical



Dearly, Nearly, Insincerely



What Is an Adverb?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable

Dearly,
Nearly,
Insincerely

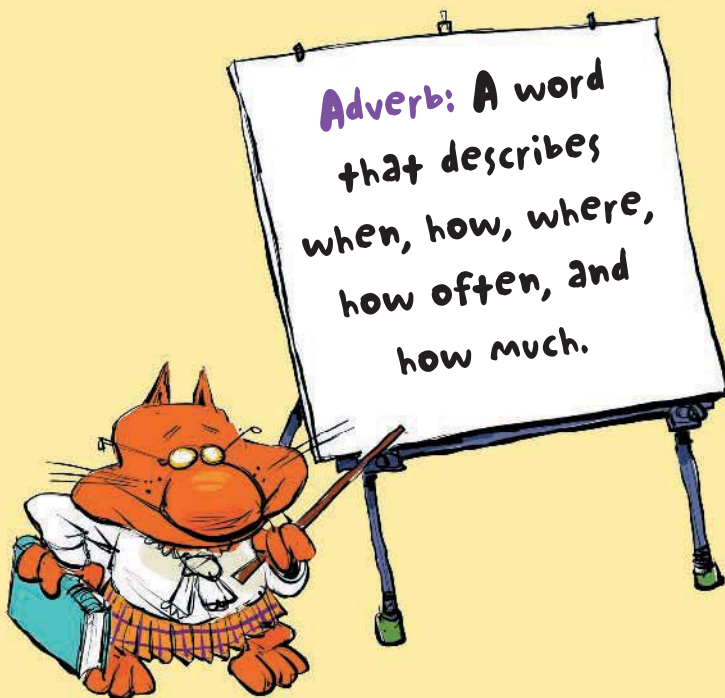


What Is an Adverb?



To Elio, Gina, and Vince who get
along swimmingly —B.P.C.

For Sari —B.G.



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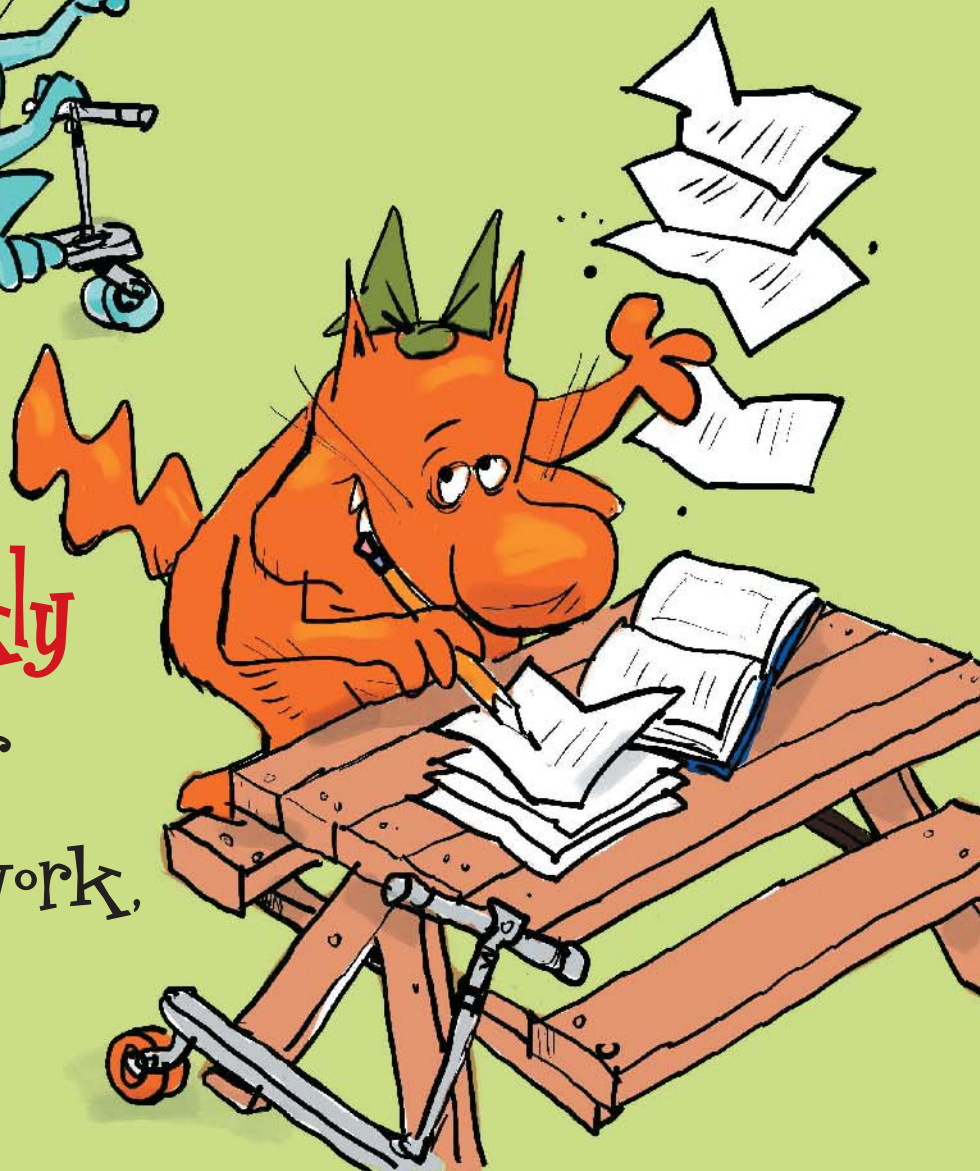
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Adverbs tell us
when and how,

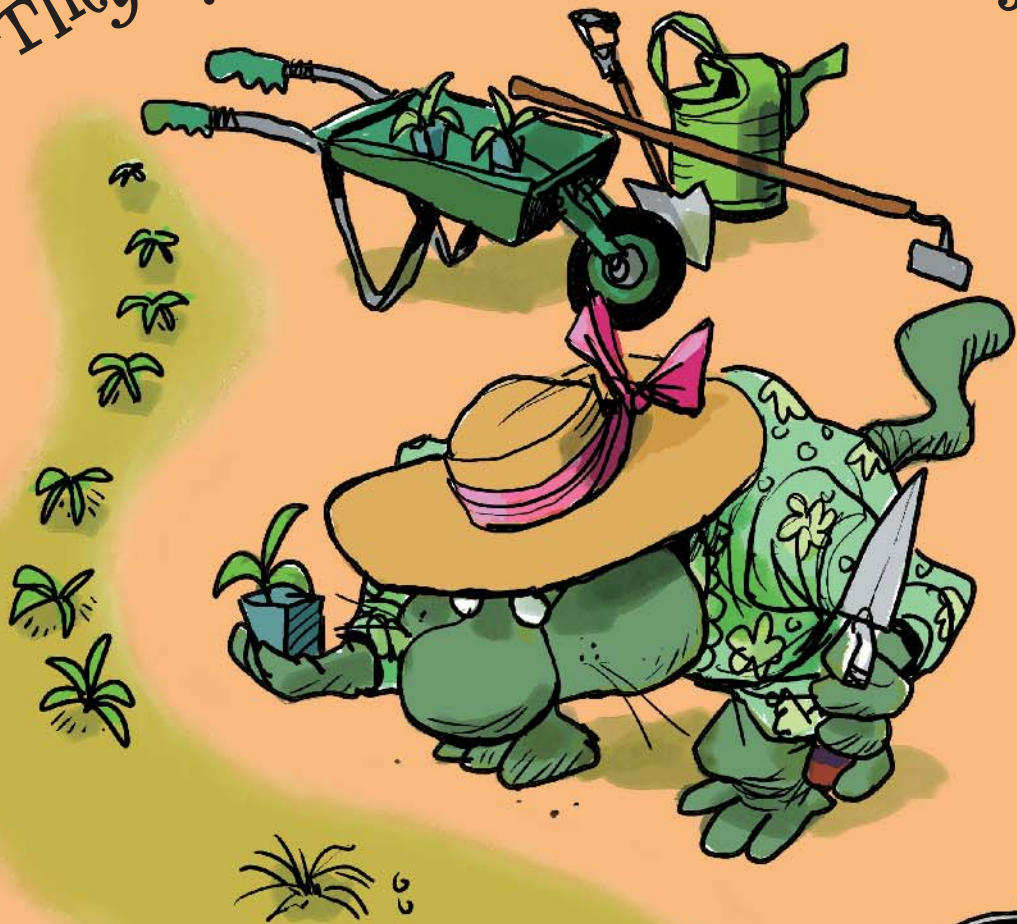


Like,
quickly
do your
homework,

now.



They often help describe the Verbs,



Like, **patiently** plant
peas and herbs.



Adverbs will frequently
end in "L-Y"



As in **Viciously**,
ultra-suspiciously sly.

Adverbs add character,
sizzle, and fizz



To your phrase or your
sentence, whatever it is!



Sharply, my dad said to
hand him a razor.



Lightly, I asked him,
"Did you see that laser?"

Frankly, this
hot dog just
couldn't be better.



Sheepishly, Fred
found he'd ruined
his sweater.





If they tell us *how*,
they're an
"adVerb of manner,"

Like, *slowly* this summer,
my sister got tanner.



Or, *quietly* sneak up to
where she is sunning



And give her a Squirt from
the hose that is running.



"Frequency adverbs"
will tell us how often,



Like, **seldom**
have I seen
a lovelier coffin.

Always eat cookies,
and never eat pine.



Sometimes I'm nervous,
but usually fine.



Adverbs can help
in explaining how much,



As in, this is
extremely delightful to touch.

Or Johnny is **somewhat**
afraid of the spider,



And Mickey has **hardly** been
touching his cider.



They give us a time,
a place, and
a number,



Like, *yesterday*, over *there*,

I was in slumber.

First, I was tired,



then, I was
Woozy,

Next, I began
feeling sleepy
and Snoozy.





They modify adverbs,
like, she
sang
quite
nicely.



Or he speaks so swiftly
but very
precisely.



They modify Verbs
and adjectives, too,



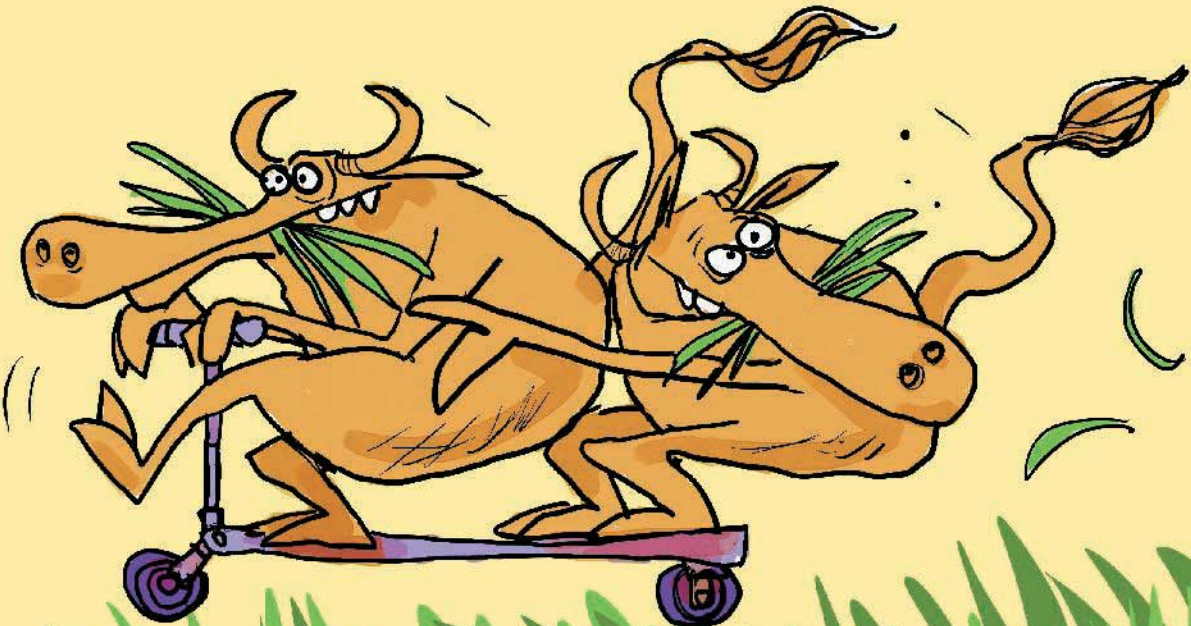
Like, **slowly**
he ate, and she's
really blue.



Presently, pleasantly,
properly praise.



Speedily, sometimes
quite greedily, graze.





Curiously, furiously,
strikingly strong,



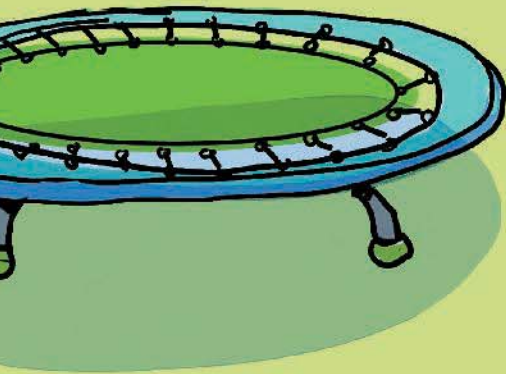
Helplessly lost and
hopelessly wrong.



AdVerbs, you'll find,
give the adjectives zip!



As in foolishly frisky



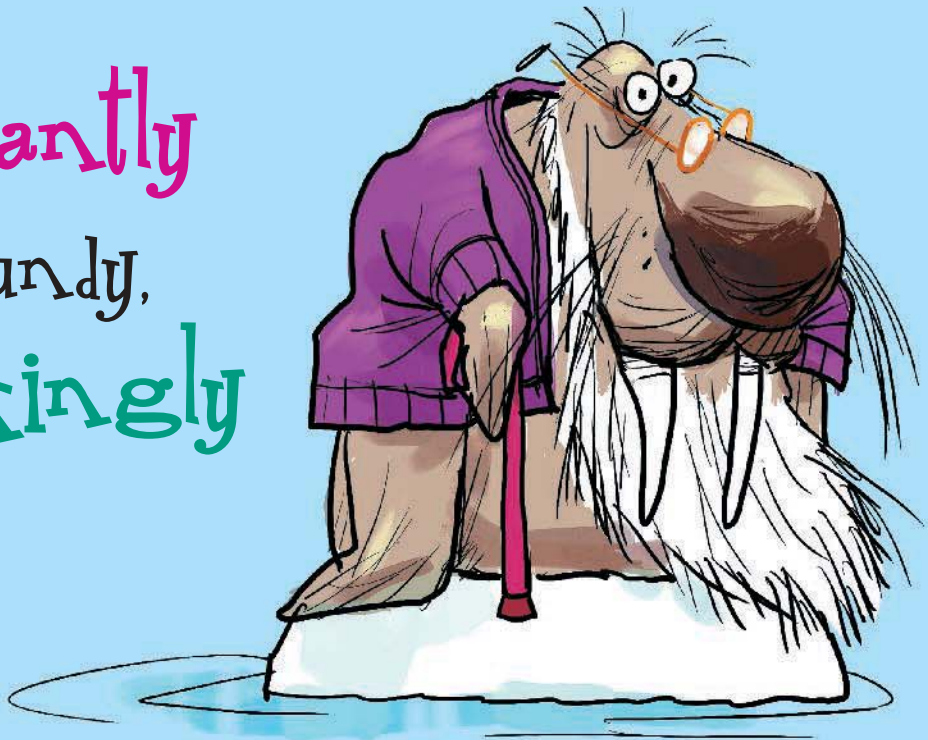
and
famously hip—



Bitterly angry, bitingly cold,



Brilliantly
burgundy,
shockingly
old.



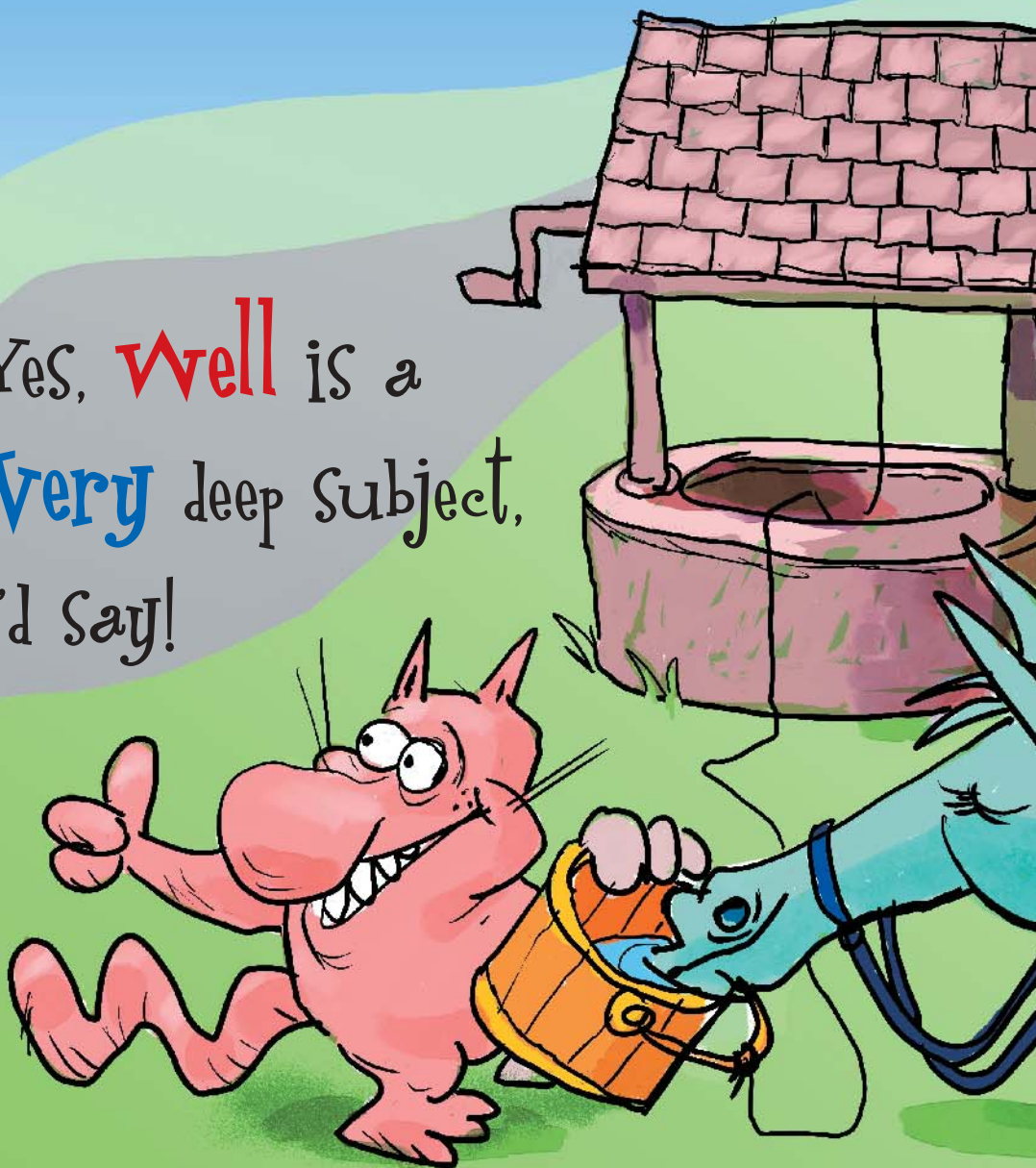
The adjective's "good,"
the adverb is "**well**."



So now that
you know that,
you're able to tell

That **w**ell's how you felt,
and good was your day.

Yes, **w**ell is a
Very deep Subject,
I'd say!





Dearly, nearly, insincerely,



Daily, weekly,
monthly, yearly,

Truly, deeply,
sadly, badly—



I tell you these are
adVerbs, **gladly**.



And so are
sleekly and
uniquely,

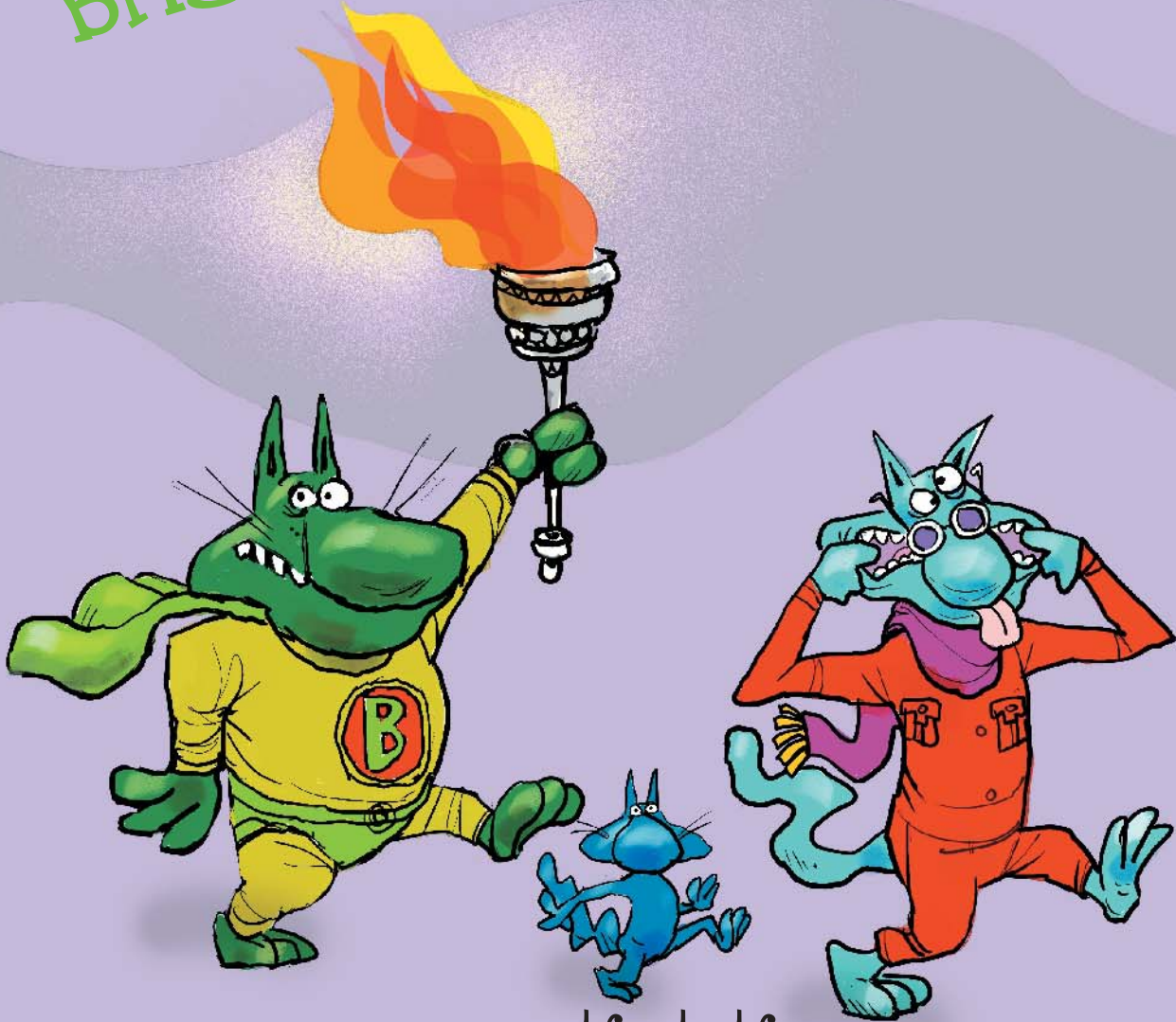


Bravely,
boldly,

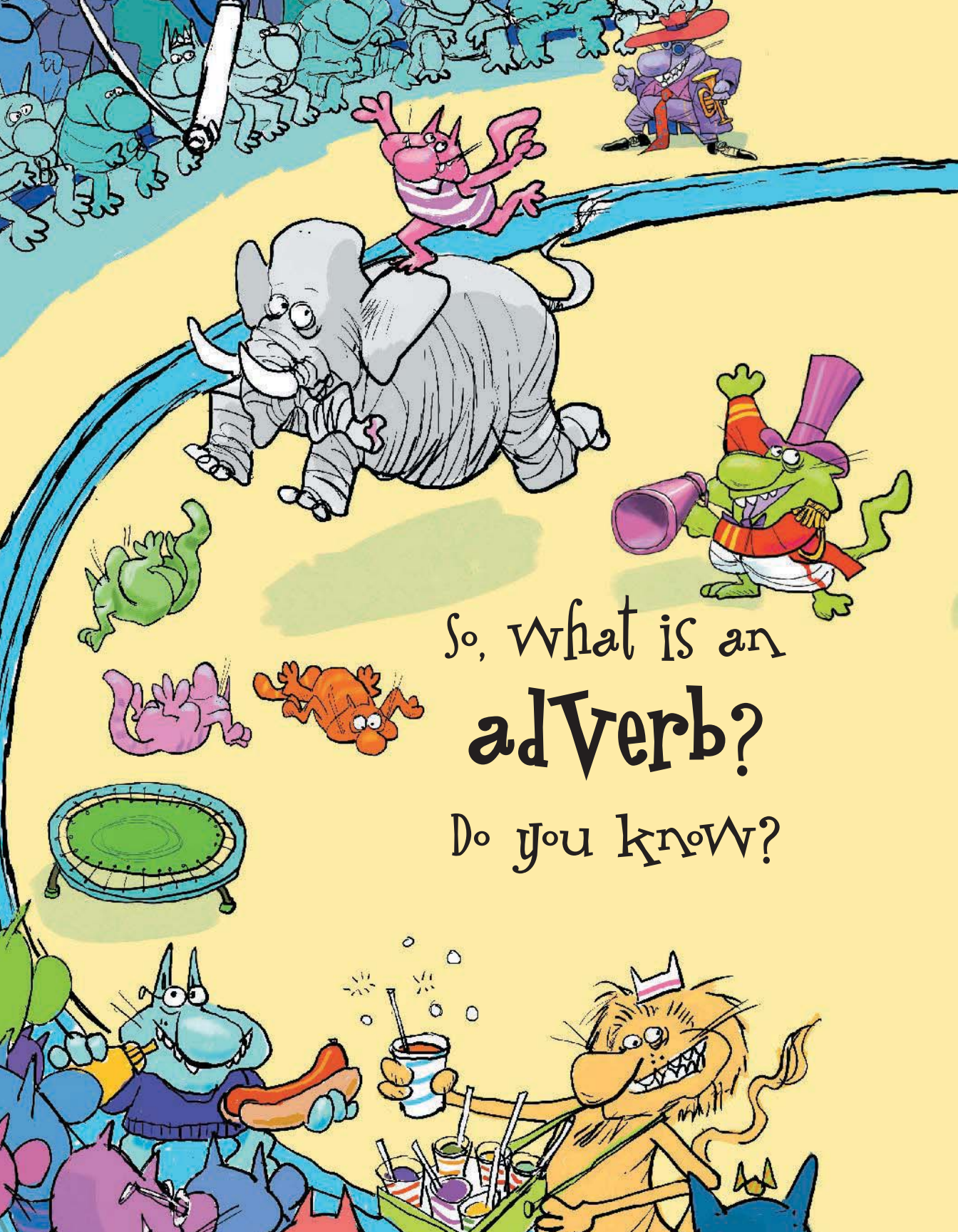
coldly, meekly.



Brightly, slightly, impolitely—



You'd say that these
are adverbs, **rightly**.



So, what is an
adVerb?

Do you know?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

BRIAN P. CLEARY is the author of several other picture books, including A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What Is a Noun?, To Root, to Toot, to Parachute: What Is a Verb?, Hairy, Scary, Ordinary: What Is an Adjective?, and Under, Over, By the Clover: What Is a Preposition?

BRIAN GABLE is the illustrator of Under, Over, By the Clover: What Is a Preposition? He lives in Toronto, Ontario, where he works as a political cartoonist.

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